

Message Text

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SUBJ: BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS PORTUGAL

REF: FBIS LONDON 040357Z DEC. 74

1. BRAZILIAN FONMINISTE AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA PAID THREE DAY VISIT TO PORTUGAL, DEC. 1-3, SEEING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, ECONOMIC MINISTER RUI VILAR AND HIS PORTUGUESE COUNTERPART, MARIO SOARES.

2. PRIOR TO SIGNING FINAL COMMUNIQUE, SOARES COMMENTED THAT "RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP" EXISTS BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE AND ATMOSPHERICS OF VISIT CONFORM TO THAT CHARACTERIZATION, AS SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN BACK SEAT TO CEREMONY. DAIRIO DE NOTICIAS (IN WHICH GOP IS PRINCIPAL SOTCKHOLDER AND WHICH CLOSELY FOLLOWS OFFICIAL LINE) WELCOMED VISIT AS POINTING TO "NEW CLIMATE OF RELATIONS" (TEMPORARILY PERTURBED AFTER APRIL 25), A WHOLLY NATURAL DEVELOPMENT GIVEN FACT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES TRANSCEND QUESTION OF REGIMES.

3. COMMUNIQUE (SEE REFTTEL) DWELT ON "SPECIAL CHARACTER" OF LUSO-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS, WITH BOTH PARTIES AGREEING ON GREATER UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, STUDY OF WAYS TO INCREASE CULTURAL

CONTACT, EASING PROCESS BY WHICH ACADEMIC DEGREES OBTAINED IN ONE COUNTRY GET RECOGNIZED IN OTHER AND AUGMENTING EXCHANGE OF BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS. MOST SIGNIFICANT IMMEDIATE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THIS AREA WAS ANNOUNCEMENT, MADE AFTER FONMINISTER'S ARRIVAL, THAT BRAZILIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS HAS APPROVED PORTUGUESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE'S PROPOSAL FOR ACHIEVING GREATER ORTHOGRAPHIC UNIFORMITY IN USE OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE.

4. AS FOR ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL AREA, VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING BEYOND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT SUCH RELATIONS WOULD BE EXPANDED.

5. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTES SIGNIFICANCE OF DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN LUSO-BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP. SOARES EVIDENTLY BRIEFED HIS COUNTERPART ON PORTUGUESE PLANS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS AREA: DR. AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA STATED APPRECIATION FOR PORTUGAL'S "REALISTIC" POLICY.

6. COMMENT: EVEN IF VISIT RESULTED IN NO IMMEDIATE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR EITHER SIDE, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL FROM POINT OF VIEW OF DISPELLING CHILL THAT HAS CLOUDED BRAZILIAN/PORTUGUESE TIE. LISBON PRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN IN HABIT RECENTLY OF PATINING BRAZIL IN ALMOST AS UNFLATTERING TONES AS IT PORTRAYS U.S., WAS EITHER NEUTRAL OR ON UPBEAT SIDE IN REPORTING VISIT. PRESS' APPROACH MAY SOON REVERT TO ITS FORMER STATE, BUT ON OFFICIAL LEVEL AT LEAST VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED POSITIVE END. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM JOURNALISTIC SOURCES THAT MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES MADE KNOWN TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS THE GOP'S INTEREST IN ELIMINATING CRITICISM OF BRAZILIAN REGIME IN PRESS DURING PERIOD OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT.)
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